

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Happ-Redo Year! Retrospective Part 1

BY PAT MYERS

As she does each year, the Empress invited the Losers to have another go at any of the past year's contests. In these Week 1467 results we tour the first half of the year; be sure to check wapo.st/invite1471 for more ink, especially two terrific videos and cicada art.

4th place:

Week 1422, add a "collaborator" to a work and change the title: Elton John with Sen. Joe Manchin: Block-It Man. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

3rd place:

Week 1430, "breed" two Triple Crown nominees and name the "foal": Like the King x Troubadour = Henry VIII lamb (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park, Md.)

2nd place and the Darth Vader USB car charger:

Week 1420, song parodies about jobs:

A Famously Idle Tradesman (To "My Favorite Things") Candy Crush, solitaire, lots of sudoku. Bingeing on YouTube and Netflix on Roku. Playing the bagpipes and training my dog When I feel clever I work on the blog

Read the Bible! I am liable To peruse TikTok; The point is I'm able to do what I wanna

And all the while on the clock! Crawl in my hammock if I'm a bit lazy, Take "Master Classes" from Martin Scorsese,

Starting some sourdough, learning Chinese, Hand-churning ice cream and watching it freeze

I'm not lonely! That's baloney! That's just for the ad! I'm loving my life as the Maytag repairman, The best gig I ever had! (Roxi Slemp, Bariloche, Argentina)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Week 1429, a modern equivalent to a Shakespeare quote: "I can again thy former light restore." ("Othello")

"I'll deal with Texas's electrical grid after I get back from Cancun." (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Retrospecks: Honorable mentions

Week 1413, poems featuring new terms in the dictionary: Said an anti-vax mom in defiance: "You will never find me in compliance!

It's a terrible trick That could make my child sick! (Also, ranting is more fun than science)." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1417, poems about people who died in 2020: Jay Johnstone (1945-2020), Yankees and Dodgers outfielder and renowned prankster

Considering the snake he hid in bread, The rooms he locked Lasorda in, then fled, The brownie that he stuffed in Garvey's mitt,

The cleats (on feet!) his sneaky Zippo lit, The scissors that he used to cut a notch Where Sutcliffe's undies should have had a crotch,

You've got to figure that his family hopes He's still alive — and playing them for dopes. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Week 1418, Tour de Fours: Neologisms containing "UNDO" in any order: Tower of Loudoun: Where prisoners are sentenced to an unending commute. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Week 1419, combine congressional names in "joint legislation": Torres-Mann-Spartz Act to ban zippers in favor of button flies. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Week 1420, work songs: NFL Replacement Player (to "I'm a Believer") I thought I would never make the NFL

Thanks to my bad hands and busted knee. Wasn't great in college, Barely made the team, All I had was shin splints and a dream.

Then they contact-traced, Now I'm a receiver.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1471: Tour de Fours XVIII: B-I-D-E with us

EDIBELL: The triangle that the ranch cook hits at chow time in those old Westerns.

LOW-BARB DIET: Cutting back on the snideness. "Okay, starting January 1, I'm going on a severe low-barb diet — just two nasty tweets a day."

DEBIG: Begin to fit into your pre-pandemic pants.

As Yes He Is the President's second year begins, the Empress tips her tiara in our annual Tour de Fours neologism contest. This week: Coin a word or phrase containing the letters B-I-D-E — consecutively but in any order — and describe it, as in the examples above. Even with 24 possible permutations of the letters, there's a good chance someone else will send in the same word you think of, so it could come down to the funniest description, especially if it shows how the neologism could be used in real life.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1471 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Jan. 24; results appear Feb. 13 in print, Feb. 10 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a prize that the New Yorker will never give you: It's the Poo Doo Toilet Toss, a little bowl-shaped paddle that you strap onto your hand to try to catch a "mushy and sticky" poo emoji blob. A game for sadly immature people of all ages. Donated by Loser Marleen May.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline "Happ-Redo Year" is by Jon Gearhart; Jon also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1471.



"Looks like the Boxers are planning a rumble — better warn the Briefs!" Dottie Gray, Alexandria Week 1425 caption contest

The team's replaced With bums they could find. I'm in luck — I'm a receiver Thanks to a fever conference-wide ... (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

Week 1421, write something using words from Biden's inaugural address: "I was brought into the world ages ago. So was Lincoln. Another example: George Washington. But I am still HERE! So there!" (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Week 1422, "collaborations": The Flamingos + Sen. Mitch McConnell: I Only Have Nays for You (Jon Gearhart)

Nathaniel Hawthorne + Clifford the Big Red Dog: The Scarlet Litter (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

John Green + Dr. Fauci: The Fault in Our SARS (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

Week 1424, neologisms from letter sets of the Spelling Bee game: THILMNO > Nothin Mint: An inferior Girl Scout cookie knockoff. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

YABELNZ > YalIzball: Alabama referee's announcement of a turnover: "Well, now it's yalIzball." (Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.)

Week 1426, reinterpret a real headline with a "bank head": Headline: Covid-19 Pill Is Cleared by FDA

Bank: Agency okays Ted Cruz's return to Senate (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

Week 1427, history puns in pairs: 1854-64, Gregor Mendel's pioneering genetics experiments with legumes: Give Peas a Chance, or Plant Parenthood (Lee Graham, Rockville)

1848-55, the California Gold Rush: Financial Panning, or Get a Lode of This (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2021: Bruce Springsteen sells catalogue for \$500 million: Adam Raised a Coin, or Blinded by the Loot (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Week 1428, words from ScrabbleGrams sets: EHMORT > Metr'oh!: Transit service that discovers half its cars don't work. (Mark Raffman)

Week 1430, foal names: Like the King x Chaos Reigns = Don T's Inferno (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

Affable x Like the King = Jolly Rajah (Bruce Carlson)

Captain Fantastic x Defunded = Captain Meh (Lee Graham)

Week 1436, different plots for movies: Cape Fear: Losing confidence in his powers, an aging Clark Kent is afraid to put on his Superman costume. (Jonathan Jensen)

And Last: Week 1433, Questionable Journalism: A. We're human beings and we have a need for restrooms. Q. Empress, why are you so confident that people are going to pick up The Style Invitational on Sunday morning? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And Even Laster: Week 1423, headline anagrams: Real headline: As Omicron Variant Spreads, New England Hospitals Are Under Unprecedented Strain Rearrange all those letters and get: And Losers Are Under Unprecedented Strain as Invite Woman Plans to Spread Chagrin (Jesse Frankovich)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1471. Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 17: Our contest to tack a "prefix" onto a name or phrase. See wapo.st/invite1470.

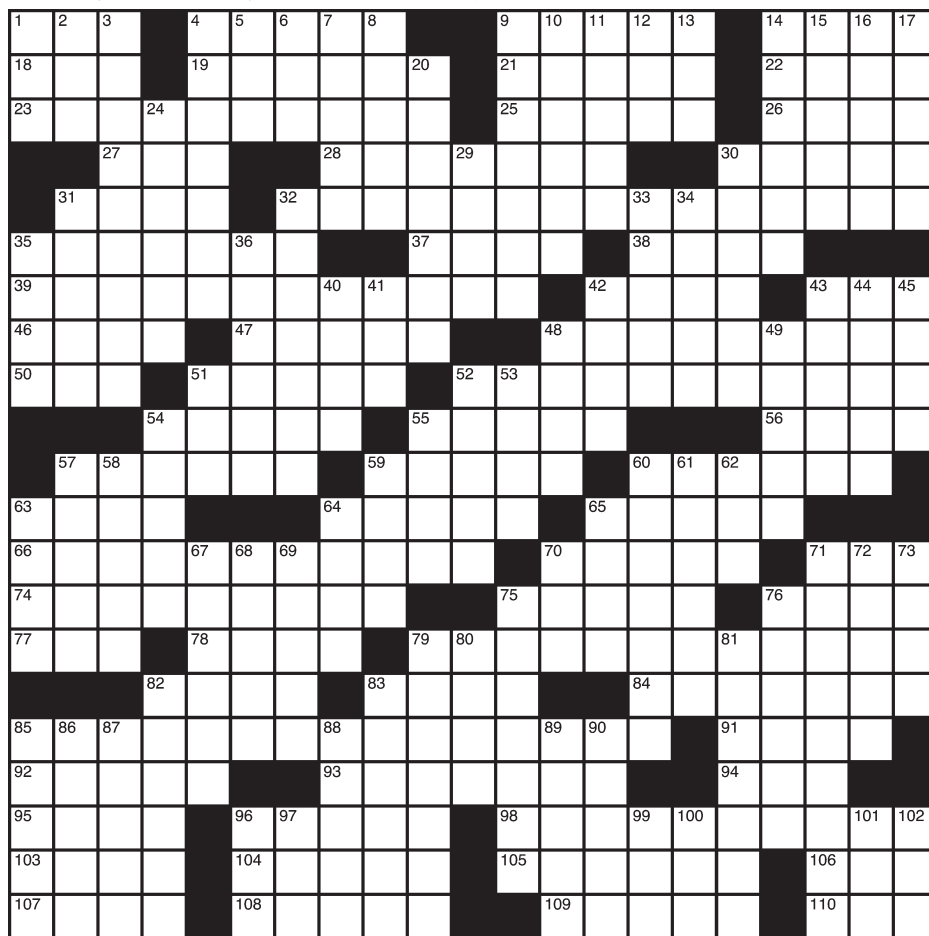
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"I HAVE A DREAM" By DARRYL GONZALEZ

ACROSS 1 Felt 4 Snuck 9 Venomous snake 14 ER readouts 18 Env. insert 19 Art movement since the '70s 21 In different places 22 Sty fare 23 "Like one of two parents, often Turkish bread 26 Correct the pitch of 27 Maria Trapp 28 Beyond repair 30 Insurance giant 31 Drei squared 32 "When many grab a bite 35 Four-time Grammy-nominated metal band 37 "Dies ___": hymn 38 Amazon and others, locally 39 "Inverness native 42 Large green moth 43 Bio or chem 46 Pre-revelry nights 47 Navel variety 48 Unchained 50 United 51 "... without trying to change me" 52 "Software design considerations 54 Makes less dense 55 Break down 56 Gram prefix 57 Partaking of 59 Big celebrations 60 Rio Grande city 63 Green-skinned "Return of the Jedi" girl 64 Snacks 65 Underground conduit 66 "Cube in a bowl 70 Credited in a note 71 Windy City rail initials 74 Wrestling foes 75 Iranian language 76 Many hybrid dogs, casually 77 Jack or jenny 78 Zest 79 "Bridge holdings sufficient to start the bidding with 82 Eighteen-wheelers 83 Reason d'___ 84 "You better believe I'll fight!" 85 "Cardiologist's dietary concern 91 They know the ropes 92 Ames native 93 Bob Hope venue 94 Luke, to Darth 95 Sonny & Cher hit 96 "Chase those guys!" 98 End of an iconic speech ... and what the ends of the answers to starred clues can have? 103 Mystery's Gardner 104 Sunlit courts 105 Fired at the table? 106 Once named 107 On a pension: Abbr. 108 Rimes of country 109 Cool giant 110 Ecu relative

DOWN 1 Director Craven 2 Queen's subject 3 Picked around in, as a junkyard 4 English ___ 5 Slowing, to an orch. 6 N.T. book 7 Start to finish? 8 May bouquet words 9 Shopping area 10 loiterer 11 Each 12 Lingerie item 13 @@@ 14 Fragrant compounds 15 1971 Fonda/Sutherland film 16 Plannin' to 17 Jargon ending 20 Rodents on wheels, perhaps 24 Some hostel visitors 29 Dynamic start? 30 On the train 31 None too worldly 32 Food preservation method 33 Island that's the first word of The Beach Boys' "Kokomo" 34 Strong textile 35 "What a relief!" 36 Gorp bit 40 Genetic carriers 41 ___City: computer game 42 Facebook option 43 Knight's ride 44 "Heart Blanche" rapper Green 45 Atoll, say 48 L in a box score 49 Word before party or math 51 Sushi-grade tuna 52 "See ya" 53 Rock groups? 54 Sling on a phone 55 Animal rights org. 57 Doctor's office posting 58 Salamanca souls 59 Mulberry family fruit 60 "We should just skip it" 61 Barely clear of the bottom 62 ___ state 63 First name in '70s Olympics gymnastics 64 Town 65 Virtual name that means "beautiful woman who leads you to victory" in Norwegian 67 Sales rep's upsell 68 Fannie of "Fried Green Tomatoes" fame 69 Feeling 70 Has the ability to 71 One of 21, or sometimes 20 72 Brouhahas 73 Trade gp. 75 Get energy from 76 Girl Scout group 79 Den piece 80 ___-à-porter: ready-to-wear 81 Trendy type often parodied on "Portlandia" 82 For mature audiences 83 Enter with caution 85 It's quarry 86 "Now ___ talking!" 87 Obsessed (on) 88 ___Sweet: sugar substitute 89 Rolls and binds 90 Zones 96 Eight pts. 97 Tour de France saison 99 Vitals checker, briefly 100 Law school accrediting org. 101 Cruiser's milieu 102 Highest Scrabble tile point value



1/16/22 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Jan. 16: You are a seeker who loves to learn new things. You are goal-oriented because you want to be somebody and have things. Personally, you are kindhearted and hard-working. This is a year to embrace change. Stay flexible and be ready to reach out for more personal freedom.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might encounter an authority figure — a parent, boss, teacher or member of the police. Alternatively, you might decide to change your long-term goals because you see a better way of doing things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a poor day to talk about politics, religion or racial issues, because logic will not prevail. People are easily worked up about things. They might be hotheaded and passionate. Therefore, give everyone some space about these issues. Lighten up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You have strong feelings when it comes to how something should be shared or divided, perhaps an inheritance. Or perhaps you're looking into the wealth of your partner or the wealth and resources of someone else. You might even feel jealous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might attract someone to you who is very powerful and opinionated. Possibly, you will play this role for someone else, but more likely, you will encounter this person. ("Hi Darth.") Keep things light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You can get an amazing amount done because you have motivation, focus and follow-through. This determination will apply to your job, a decision to improve your health or your approach to dealing with a pet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a tricky day. Parents might find it challenging dealing with their kids because of hissy fits and meltdowns. In the same way, romantic partners might overreact when dealing with each other. "Boris!" "Natasha!"

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Ideally, you can use today's energy to make improvements to where you live. These improvements might relate to plumbing — perhaps to laundry areas, bathrooms or something to do with recycling or garbage. However, steer clear of domestic arguments. You don't need this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are convincing (and because you're a Scorpio, that is really saying something). You can use this influence for good or for simply trying to win an argument. Be careful. Don't try to coerce others into accepting your beliefs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You have strong ideas when it comes to dealing with money or shopping. In fact, something might come up that makes you feel almost obsessed. You might really want to buy something. ("I have to have it!") Or, likewise, you might feel obsessed about dealing with financial matters in business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today might be coming on like gangbusters, which is not always your style. You generally take a long view of things, which means you can remember what your objective is. Avoid the temptation to be heated and demanding about something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Profound secrets seem to be in the mix. You might discover a secret. A secret might be revealed. Or perhaps you are trying to keep something secret. Whatever the case, be respectful of others and be discreet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) When talking to a friend or when dealing with a group or an organization, you might encounter someone who is powerful and persuasive. It's important that you listen objectively so you can make your mind up. Don't be swayed by someone else's snake oil or rhetoric. Think for yourself.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

